

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 08430 130538Z

15 S
ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 INR-07 NSC-05 CIAE-00

/045 W

----- 089942

R 121647Z NOV 76
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2289
INFO AMCONSUL KARACHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 8430

DEPT FOR A/SY/FO; KARACHI FOR RSS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ASEC, LE
SUBJECT: TRIP REPORT: SECURITY ASPECTS OF CHARGE'S VISIT TO EAST
BEIRUT

REF: (A) BEIRUT 8368, (B) BEIRUT 8299, (C) STATE 267582

1. SUMMARY: CHARGE'S VISIT TO CHRISTIAN-CONTROLLED LEBANON DURING THE PERIOD 5-9 NOVEMBER 1976 WAS ACCOMPLISHED WITHOUT INCIDENT AND EAST BEIRUT AUTHORITIES WERE EXTREMELY COOPERATIVE IN PROVIDING SECURITY ASSISTANCE FOR THE VISIT. END SUMMARY.

2. SUBSTANTIVE MEMBERS OF THE GROUP VISITING THE EASTERN SECTOR CONSISTED OF CHARGE D'AFFAIRES LANE AND FSL HALIM I. MAMMARY. THE SECURITY ESCORT CONSISTED OF RSO O'BRIEN AND SY FSL'S FAWZI E. YAZIGE (GREEK CATHOLIC), JUSTAFA T. AL-BOUTARI (SUNNI MUSLIM), MOHAMAD K. AL-KURDI (SUNNI MUSLIM), AND MUSTAPHA KREIDIEH (SUNNI MUSLIM). THE COM CHRYSLER, DRIVEN BY KREIDIEH, TRANSPORTED CHARGE AND MAMMARY. AL-BOUTARI ACCOMPANIED THE CHARGE AS PERSONAL BODYGUARD ON ALL MOVES. ONE OF OUR NEW ARMORED FORDS WAS UTILIZED AS A FOLLOW CAR THROUGHOUT THE VISIT. THIS VEHICLE, DRIVEN BY AL-KURDI, TRANSPORTED THE RSO AND YAZIGE.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BEIRUT 08430 130538Z

3. CHARGE'S PARTY, WITH ONE ADDITIONAL SY LEAD CAR,

DEPARTED THE CHANCERY AT 0830 5 NOVEMBER AND PROCEEDED TO CORAL BEACH HOTEL FOR RENDEZVOUS WITH GOL DIRGEN OF INTERNAL SECURITY FORCES HISHAM SHA'AR AND AL REPRESENTATIVE AL-KHULI AS OUTLINED IN REF B. AT THIS RENDEZVOUS POINT THE CROSS OVER PARTY WAS ORGANIZED AS FOLLOWS: SHA'AR VEHICLE, AL-KHULI VEHICLE, AL-KHULI FOLLOW CAR, CHARGE VEHICLE, RSO FOLLOW CAR. THE SYR LEAD CAR DROPPED OFF AT THE HOTEL AND DID NOT ACCOMPANY THE CROSS OVER PARTY ANY FURTHER.

4. USING AS A MAP REFERENCE THE BEYROUT ET BANLIEUE, SCALE 1/10,000, THE CROSS OVER PARTY DEPARTED THE CORAL BEACH HOTEL (LOCATED ON THE SHORE DIRECTLY OPPOSITE THE EMBASSY OF IRAQ) AT 0900 AND FOLLOWED THE SHORE ROAD SOUTH TO FIRST FORK, TURNED EAST AND FOLLOWED THIS ROAD TO THE SECOND ROTARY, TURNED NORTH AT THIS ROTARY ON AVENUE JAMAL TO PLACE CHATILA AND AGAIN NORTH ON AVENUE 22 NOVEMBER. AT THE INTERSECTION OF AVENUE 22 NOVEMBER AND RUE OMAR BEYHUM, THE PARTY TURNED SOUTH. RUE OMAR BEYHUM WAS FOLLOWED FOR APPROXIMATELY ONE QUARTER MILE UNTIL PARTY ARRIVED OPPOSITE THE HOSPITAL MILITAIRE (MARKED IN RED). AT THIS POINT THE PARTY ENTERED THROUGH A SMALL GATE ONTO A DIRT TRACK THROUGH A PINE FOREST WHICH LED TO A SMALL OPENING IN THE PERIMETER WALL OF THE MILITARY HOSPITAL COMPOUND, A PART OF WHICH IS BEING USED AS AN ORDNANCE REPAIR FACILITY BY CHRISTIAN/RIGHTIST FORCES. AT NO TIME DURING THE CROSSING DID THE PARTY OBSERVE OR HEAR ANY FIRING, AND EXCEPT FOR OUR NERVES, THE CROSSING WAS COMPLETELY UNEVENTFUL.

5. WHEN THE CROSSING WAS COMPLETED, AL-KHULI SEPARATED FROM CHARGE'S PARTY AND PROCEEDED TO HIS OWN APPOINTMENTS. CHARGE'S PARTY, ESCORTED BY SHA'AR, PROCEEDED TO PRESIDENT SARKIS' PRIVATE RESIDENCE IN MARTACLA.

6. WHILE THE CHARGE MET WITH PRESIDENT SARKIS, THE RSO WAS INTRODUCED TO VARIOUS MEMBERS OF THE PRESIDENTIAL STAFF, INCLUDING COL. MICHEL NASSIF WHO CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BEIRUT 08430 130538Z

CONTACTED COL. ANTOINE DAHDAH TO PROVIDE AN ESCORT DURING THE CHARGE'S STAY IN EAST BEIRUT. IT WAS AGREED THAT THE ESCORT WOULD MEET OUR PARTY AT OUR HOTEL. DURING THIS PERIOD, HOTEL RESERVATIONS WERE MADE AT THE HOTEL ST. ROCH LOCATED IN RAYFOUN (EAST OF JUNIYAH). ALTHOUGH NO PRIOR RESERVATIONS WERE MADE FOR SECURITY REASONS, IT WAS OUR ORIGINAL INTENTION TO STAY AT THE MONTEMAR WHICH DID NOT HAVE THE SPACE.

BECAUSE NO PRIOR APPOINTMENTS HAD BEEN MADE WITH CHRISTIAN LEADERS, ALL APPOINTMENTS WERE SET UP ON AN AS-AVAILABLE BASIS AFTER CHARGE'S PARTY ARRIVED IN EAST BEIRUT. FOR A COMPLETE SCHEDULE OF CHARGE'S APPOINTMENTS, SEE REF A.

7. THE LEBANESE SECURITY DETAIL WHICH JOINED OUR PARTY AT THE ST. ROCH CONSISTED OF THREE (3) MEN OF THE LEBANESE SECURITY POLICE: CAPT. MANSOUR ASMAR, CORP. MICHEL NASSIF, AND POLICE OFFICER ADIL JERMANOS. THEY DRESSED IN PLAINCLOTHES AND USED AN UNMARKED CAR. THESE SAME MEN REMAINED WITH OUR PARTY DURING THE ENTIRE VISIT, STAYED IN THE SAME HOTEL (FOR WHICH THE EMBASSY FOOTED THE BILL) AND ACCOMPANIED THE CHARGE ON ALL CALLS. IN ADDITION TO THEIR OUTSTANDING PROFESSIONALISM, THEY WERE EXTREMELY KNOWLEDGEABLE AND HELPFUL THROUGHOUT THE TRIP.

8. THE RETURN TRIP TO WEST BEIRUT WAS ALSO ORGANIZED THROUGH SHA'AR AND OUR PARTY CROSSED AGAIN THROUGH THE MILITARY HOSPITAL GATE AND PROCEEDED DIRECTLY TO THE CHANCERY WITHOUT INCIDENT.

9. THE GENERAL SECURITY SITUATION IN THE CHRISTIAN AREA WAS QUITE GOOD, ALTHOUGH IN EAST BEIRUT THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE DAMAGE, AND INTENSE SHELLING, PRIMARILY AT NIGHT, OCCURRED DURING OUR VISIT. UNIFORMED POLICE OFFICERS WERE OBSERVED DIRECTING TRAFFIC, AND, ACCORDING TO OUR ESCORT, THE MAJORITY OF POLICE FUNCTIONS WERE BEING PERFORMED. THERE APPEARED TO BE FEWER ARMED MILITIAMEN AT LARGE AND THOSE IN UNIFORM GENERALLY CARRIED ONLY SIDEARMS. THE CARRYING OF PISTOLS, HOWEVER, APPEARS TO BE ALMOST UNIVERSAL, INCLUDING

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 BEIRUT 08430 130538Z

WOMAN AND THE CLERGY. ONE OF THE CHARGE'S CONTACTS, FATHER CHARBEL KASSIS, A MARONITE PRIEST, PACKS TWO REVOLVERS UNDER HIS CASSOCK.

10. ALTHOUGH OUR TRIP WAS SUCCESSFUL AND WITHOUT INCIDENT, THE SECURITY SITUATION STILL REMAINS UNSTABLE AND UNLESS THE PRESENCE OF THE ARAB LEAGUE FORCES DRAMATICALLY IMPROVES THESE CONDITIONS, ANY FUTURE TRAVEL ACROSS THE TRADITIONAL CONFRONTATION LINE MUST BE CAREFULLY ORGANIZED.

LANE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 NOV 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BEIRUT08430
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760424-0897
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761155/aaaabvor.tel
Line Count: 165
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SY
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 BEIRUT 8368, 76 BEIRUT 8299, 76 STATE 267582
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 JUN 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <18 OCT 2004 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TRIP REPORT: SECURITY ASPECTS OF CHARGE'S VISIT TO EAST BEIRUT
TAGS: ASEC, LE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006